

REMARKS

Specification

Applicants have amended the specification to provide the updated status of the applications referred to in the first paragraph of the specification.

Priority

Applicants note that the claim for foreign priority and receipt of the Certified Priority document have been acknowledged on the PTOL-326 form mailed with the Office Action. However, paragraph 4 of the body of the Office Action is inconsistent with the acknowledgment. Accordingly, Applicants hereby affirm the claim of priority made in the Request For Continuation Application filed July 17, 2003, in which Applicants stated that priority of Japanese Patent Application No. 11-014048, filed February 19, 1999 is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119. The certified priority document has been filed in the parent application. See paragraph 10 of the Request filed by Applicants.

Drawings

Regarding the requirement to correct the drawings, Applicants note that Fig. 5 has been amended by Applicants July 17, 2003. The Request is resubmitted herewith.

Claim Objections

Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 9, as required. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

Double Patenting

Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of the claims as being unpatentable over claim 1-15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,615,327.

35 USC § 102

Claims 9-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kanda et al. Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and for the following reasons.

Kanda discloses, in Fig. 9, a computer system having first and second computers 10, 11 that are connected to a disk controller 80". The disk controller is connected to disk devices 600, 101 respectively through a FBA disk interface unit 90 and a CKD disk interface unit 85. The disk devices store FBA and CKD records, respectively. Accordingly, FBA disk interface unit 90 performs data transfer complying with the FBA format and CKD disk interface unit 85 performs data transfer complying with the CKD format. However, Kanda does not disclose or suggest that the first and second computers 10, 11 are connected via a communication line in combination with the first computer requesting the second computer via the communication line to send data stored in a storage apparatus in fixed-length block format to the first computer via the communication line. Further, Kanda does not disclose reading by using the second computer, in response to the request, data in the fixed-length block format from the storage apparatus via a fixed length access interface and transferring by using the second computer the read data in the fixed length block format to the first computer via a communication line. Kanda discloses reading a CKD record from a tape library 150 and

converting the CKD record to a FBA record, and writing the FBA record to disk device 600. See, col. 14, lines 8-12 of Kanda, which is the portion of the patent cited in the Office Action.

Further, Kanda does not disclose a computer, as set forth in claim 13, in a variable-length block format having a communication unit to communicate through a communication line with another computer which is connected to a storage apparatus, as in the present invention, wherein a processor of the computer sends a request through the communication unit to another computer to read data stored in the storage apparatus in fixed-length block format, receives the read data from the other computer through the communication unit, and converts the data to data in variable-length block format.

Still further, Kanda fails to disclose or suggest a system, as set forth in claim 17, having first and second computers, connected through a communication line in combination with a storage apparatus storing data in a fixed-length block format connected to the second computer via a fixed length access interface, wherein the first computer requests the second computer to send data stored in the storage apparatus, the second computer reads the data stored

in the storage apparatus via the fixed length access interface and transfers the data to the first computer via the communication line based on the request, and the first computer receives the transferred data, converts the received data to a variable-length block format, and processes the converted data.

In Kanda, the first and second computers are not connected together via a communication line, as in the present invention. Accordingly, the method, computer and system claimed by Applicants is not disclosed by Kanda. In the present invention, as set forth in claims 9, 13 and 17, the first computer requests the second computer (another computer in claim 13) to read data and transfer the read data to the first computer via the communication line in combination with the first computer (computer in claim 13) converting the read data, which is in a fixed-length block format, to a variable-length block format, and processing the converted data. Accordingly, claims 9, 13 and 17 are not anticipated by Kanda and the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection should be withdrawn. Further, claims 10-12, 14-16, 18-20 and new claims 21-24 are dependent claims that set forth additional limitations that

are not disclosed or suggested by Kanda or the remainder of the art of record. Accordingly each of these claims should be allowed at least for depending from an allowable base claim and further for being patentable over the art of record.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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FIG.5

